

Connecticut General Assembly Appropriations Committee Public Hearing RE: Testimony STATE  
LIBRARY BUDGET February 20, 2023

Written Testimony on Behalf of the Connecticut State Library H.B. No. 6659.

My name is Beth Dominianni and I serve as Secretary of the Board of the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC). I am writing in support of H.B. 6659 and the maintaining of full funding for the Cooperating Library Service Unit (CLC) line item within the Connecticut State Library budget. As a librarian who has managed libraries in the Hartford and Southwestern Connecticut regions, I have seen the value of the Connecticut Library Consortium many times over. CLC is a critical and much needed link for public libraries that juggle budgets to provide vital services to their communities. CLC is the *only* legislative program and cooperating library service unit funded by the Connecticut State Library. It helps libraries throughout the state by supporting the purchasing of digital resources, databases, and other services at the best possible prices. There is no other organization in the state that offers these services to our libraries.

As the past Library Director for an association library that received only a portion of our funds from the town and raised the rest through donations, I relied heavily on the discounts provided through the buying power a strong cooperating unit can negotiate. Though recently retired, I continue to serve on CLC's Board because I feel so strongly about the important role it plays in negotiating discounts and providing the platform for librarians to share best practices. The importance of CLC's cooperative sharing model was particularly apparent to me when its staff quickly developed ways for librarians to come together through electronic platforms to share best practices for operating safe public libraries during the height of COVID shut downs.

Finally, CLC offers librarians a place to expand their professional growth, share ideas and collaborate on projects through newsletters, webinars, roundtables, training sessions, and conferences on a wide variety of topics. CLC also serves as the official job posting hub for Connecticut libraries of all types.

The failure to adequately fund CLC next year would have an adverse impact on libraries throughout the state. I strongly urge support for the requested funding. Thank you.

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